

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria

SUBJECT The EKU, a Soviet Economic Intelligence and Sabotage Organization

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1. The EKU (Ekonomicheskoye Upravleniye) is a Soviet economic intelligence and sabotage organization directly and exclusively responsible to the Politburo of the Communist Party of the USSR. It has a branch office in the Soviet Legation in Vienna.
2. The staff of the EKU consists of economists and technicians who gather detailed information on the productivity, the personnel, and the equipment of all Western European firms.
3. The task of the EKU is to conduct economic sabotage in Western European countries and to procure raw materials for the armaments industry of the Soviet Union.
4. On the basis of its economic and technical studies, the EKU makes recommendations as to the timing of strikes in Western Europe. It is thereby constantly at odds with the Cominform, which demands that political factors be taken into account before a decision is reached as to when strikes should be called.

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- 1 [REDACTED] Comment: The EKU was the Economic Directorate of the Chief Directorate of State Security of the Peoples' Commissariat of Internal Affairs up to 1943 and of the People's Commissariat of State Security up to 1946. No recent information on industrial espionage abroad by this organization has been available, although it has been reported as having engaged in such activities during the war. Its counterespionage functions in Soviet industry are continued today under the MGB. An ex-Soviet officer reports that the EKU still exists; see Time Magazine 3 January 1949.

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